

FWP PUBLIC NOTICE

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission is seeking public comment on a proposed change in the application deadline for special elk permits and special deer permits.

Beginning in 2012, if adopted by the FWP Commission, the application deadline for resident and nonresident special elk and deer permits would be March 15. The previous deadline was June 1.

The proposed change to the application deadline would:

- enhance customer service for residents and nonresidents by providing special elk and deer permit drawing results in April rather than the end of July.
 - Provide more opportunity for hunters to plan their hunts, obtain vacation time, get landowner permission, and scout.
- include only special elk licenses, either-sex or bull elk and buck deer.
- allow residents to begin purchasing their 2012 hunting and fishing licenses in January 2012.
- provide just one application for nonresidents. The nonresident combination licenses and the special permits would be on the same application with the same deadline date.
 - Only up to 10% of the special permits would still go to nonresidents.

Permit applications would also list available elk and deer special permit hunting districts for both residents and nonresidents.

The Antelope, Antelope B, Elk B and Deer B license drawing deadline will still be June 1. These are the licenses used to manage population size and the counts and surveys need to be conducted through the spring and the final quotas set by the FWP Commission.

Youth completing hunter's education after March 15 would not be able to apply for special elk or deer permits. These youth, however, would still be able to participate in several other special youth hunting opportunities provided for youth in Montana.

The deadline to submit your comments on this proposal is 5 p.m. September 30, 2011. Comments may be submitted on line or by email to hworsech@mt.gov.